

PRESCRIPTION DRUG DIVERSION INVESTIGATION

Prescription drug diversion is one of the fastest growing crimes and public health issues in the country. Prescription drug diversion occurs whenever an individual uses or consumes a medication in a manner other than as prescribed by the physician or manufacturer. Prescription drugs are obtained illegally by patients who “doctor shop” (going to more than one doctor to obtain medication), fraud and forgery, theft, burglary, and robbery.

Prescription drug diversion can also be linked to collateral crimes such as burglary, theft, fraud, and assaults, as drug seekers look for other sources of prescription drugs, such as peoples’ homes and medicine cabinets. Prescription drug abuse can lead to serious medical problems and even death. Nineteen Dodge County residents died of prescription drug overdoses in 2007 and 2008.

The Dodge County Sheriff Department started a proactive Prescription Drug Diversion Investigation program in 2006 to address this emerging threat to our community. A partnership was developed with the District Attorney, Medical Examiner, Probation and Parole, the Dodge County Medical Association, Beaver Dam Community Hospital, and area pharmacies to jointly address diversion issues and prevention methods. Forty-one local law enforcement officers were trained in Basic Drug Investigation. Seventy local law enforcement professional were trained in prescription drug diversion investigations and forty local doctors and pharmacists received training in recognizing drug seeking behavior and drug diversion prevention methods.

The Dodge County Sheriff Department and Drug Task Force have held prescription drug drop off events in the community to assist residents in removing unused prescription drugs from their homes. A permanent drop off site is currently being developed.

The public is encouraged to report prescription drug diversion to their local law enforcement agency, via the Dodge County Sheriff Department website web tip, or through WeTip (1-800-78-CRIME or www.wetip.com)

PRESCRIPTION DRUG ARRESTS

2008	30
2007	35
2006	18
2005	15
2004	2
2003	2
2002	3
2001	No Data
2000	1
1999	3
1998	0